

Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Area, 30,609 Acres; Population, 5822 (1901).

Annual * Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1907.

THE Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants, is situated in the Valley of the Test, and consists of Three Divisions, viz., Whitchurch, Overton, and St. Mary Bourne, each with some adjoining Parishes. The occupation of the inhabitants is mainly agricultural, but a certain number are employed in a Paper Mill, a Jam Factory, and Slop-work (Clothing), also a few in a small Silk Mill.

REGISTERED BIRTHS—

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	82
Overton	...	...	...	...	47
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	21
Total	...	...	...	...	150

DEATHS—

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	28
Overton	...	...	...	...	17
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	11
Total	...	...	...	...	56

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	6
Overton	...	...	...	...	3
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	12

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS—

Whitchurch Workhouse	...	...	...	...	7
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Comparing with the previous year, we have—

BIRTHS—

				1906.	1907.
Whitchurch	...	...	...	68	82
Overton...	...	...	...	42	47
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	27	21
Total	...	...	...	137	150

DEATHS—

				1906.	1907.
Whitchurch	...	...	...	39	28
Overton	...	...	...	19	17
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	16	11
Total	...	...	...	74	56

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—				1906.	1907.
Whitchurch	...	...	...	4	6
Overtou	...	...	...	4	3
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	2	3
Total	...	...	...	10	12

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS—				1906.	1907.
Whitchurch Workhouse	...	...	...	9	7
Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	0	0

DEATH RATES FOR WHOLE DISTRICT—				1906.	1907.
General	...	...	...	12·7	9·6
Infant	...	...	...	72·9	80·0

BIRTH RATE PER 1000 OF POPULATION—1906, 23·5 ; 1907, 25·7.

On comparing the statistics in Table I., annexed, with the average of the past ten years, it will be seen that the number of Births in the whole district has fallen from 155, or a rate of 26·9, to 150, or a rate of 25·7 ; and that the Deaths, which averaged 74·9, or a rate of 12·9, are for this year 56, or a rate of 9·6, which, if allowance was made for the deaths of 5 premature Infants which lived less than 24 hours, and 2 weakly Infants living one day and two days respectively, would be reduced to 49, or a rate of 8·4 for all other causes.

The Infant Mortality Table V., introduced 1905, shows that of the 12 deaths of Children under one year of age 8 lived less than one week ; and that the Illegitimate Births number 5 (a decrease of 2 on last year), and that no Death occurred amongst them.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, adopted February, 1890, shows the following results :—

WHITCHURCH—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	9

OVERTON—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	4

ST. MARY BOURNE—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	2

Total in Rural District—15.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases—0

The following is the return of new cases of Sickness attended as Paupers by the Medical Officer of each District during the year :—

Whitchurch	...	...	...	...	152
Overtou	...	...	...	...	100
St. Mary Bourne	...	...	...	...	67

Of which Measles, Influenza, Bronchitis and Rheumatism form the chief features, with a few cases of Diarrhœa, Mumps, and Chicken Pox.

With regard to the Health of the District it may be said to have been generally good.

INFLUENZA was somewhat prevalent at intervals during the year, chiefly in the earlier and later months. Two deaths are attributable to it in St. Mary Bourne, one being an aged person and the other an infant; in both cases it was associated with Bronchitis.

SCARLET FEVER.—One case of an adult was notified in April from an outlying part of the St. Mary Bourne Division. This case, which was imported, was satisfactorily isolated at home. No other case is known to have occurred in this Rural District during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.—Seven cases were notified during the year, viz., one in January at an outlying house in the Overton Division, this case, which was imported, was isolated at home; one in February at St. Mary Bourne, admitted to the Isolation Hospital; one in May in Whitechurch, admitted to the Isolation Hospital; one (adult) in Overton in October, isolated at home; one in November in Whitechurch and two in December, all admitted to the Hospital. No definite cause could be ascertained for these cases, but the last three cases were in the same locality, which was at the time very damp, and in one instance the premises were directed by your Council to be put into a more sanitary condition.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case was notified in April in Overton, for which no definite cause could be ascertained.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Two cases were notified in Whitechurch in January and one in Overton in August; the former were probably associated with Influenza and the latter with a close and offensive closet. The usual disinfection was carried out.

MEASLES was epidemic in Whitechurch in July and necessitated the closing of the Schools shortly before the holidays, during which time the Schools were disinfected by the Inspector of Nuisances. On my recommendation the various Sunday Schools were also closed for a few weeks.

A few cases of CHICKEN POX and MUMPS occurred in the District during the year.

PHTHISIS caused three deaths, viz., two in Whitechurch and one in Overton; and CANCER six, viz., three in Whitechurch, one in Overton and two in St. Mary Bourne.

During the year five patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, all being cases of Diphtheria. The Hospital is provided by the District Council and its accommodation is sufficient.

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing where infectious disease has occurred, and in other cases as recommended, has been carefully carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances and disinfectants supplied as required.

As regards DRAINAGE there is no regular System of Sewerage, but in the more populous places in Whitechurch and Overton, through which the River Test flows, drains and gutters have been laid for the conveyance of surface water, usually to the river. Into these a good deal of foul matter from the roads finds its way, and also slop water from sinks and back premises, but in no instance is any closet known to connect with these drains, though there are still some few closets connected with the river, which it would be well to get rid of. The plan for flushing certain drains in Whitechurch by means of an inlet from the river still appears to work well, and the springs which flow into the drain in a part of its course aid in keeping it clean with the help of the Scavenger, who sweeps the gutters daily.

THE WATER SUPPLY of the district is by wells and tube pumps, the latter being on the increase yearly, and more attention is given to the covering of wells and raising of kerbs so as to avoid pollution from surface water. Samples of water have been examined from time to time and defects made good, certificates for supply to new houses being granted as required.

During the year considerable improvement has been made in the water supply for the houses in Bridge Street, Overton, by the order of your Council that every owner should provide a proper supply for his houses in that locality, which has been carried out by the owners providing tube pumps, but at present two are not satisfactorily completed, though the work is in hand. In June the water from a well for two houses at Dellance, Overton, was found to be polluted and unfit for drinking, the well was twice cleaned out and a sample of water subsequently sent by the Agent of the property to the County Analyst, whose report, dated August 17th, I saw and found satisfactory.

THE DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT in the district is mainly on the pail system or cemented vaults, and the contents are ordered to be emptied at regular intervals by the scavenger of the localities of Whitechurch and Overton and carted away, the St. Mary Bourne locality not requiring a scavenger. House refuse and rubbish is removed by the scavenger in Whitechurch and Overton, who also attends to the gutters and the cleansing of the streets.

PIGGERIES near dwelling houses have, as usual, been dealt with from time to time by the Inspector of Nuisances, as also the keeping of Poultry in cramped and confined places close to houses, where they are often a nuisance and a source of annoyance to neighbours.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES have been inspected, cleansed and whitewashed as required.

THE DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS have been inspected and improvements made as to cleanliness, ventilation and drainage in conformity with the model regulations of the Local Government Board, which came into operation in January, 1905, but there is still much to be desired, especially as regards the yards adjoining the cowsheds, which are often in a filthy and offensive condition.

THE BAKEHOUSES have been inspected, whitewashing and sanitation attended to as required. One was ordered to be cleansed and whitewashed. There is no Underground Bakehouse in the District.

Several Old Cottages have been whitewashed, repaired and improved.

Many of the Cottages are too small and inconmodious for the number in the family, so leading to overcrowding, which it is difficult to abate, as there is a lack of larger cottages; this was remedied in three instances by turning two houses into one. Owners should be more careful not to let small houses to large families. Several new houses have been built in different parts of the district. There is no supervision over the erection of new houses, and drainage sometimes subsequently becomes a difficulty.

Inspections have been made under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, attention given to cleanliness and sanitary conditions and to dwellings of Home-workers, especially with regard to infectious illness, of which there has again been none amongst them during the year.

When Infectious Illness has occurred in a house the children have been kept from school by notice to the teachers.

The Elementary Schools in the district were improved and put into a good sanitary condition, with improved water supply, during 1905. On inspection the Closets at one school were found to require more attention.

Many Inspections of the District have been made, both systematic and otherwise, and reports made to your Council of matters to be dealt with, which have now been attended to.

During the year I have been in constant communication with your late Inspector of Nuisances, who, as usual, has rendered much valuable assistance, and submitted the following summary of work carried out under his supervision by order of the District Council and Medical Officer of Health from January 1st to September 30th, 1907 :—

Cottages White-washed and Repaired	...	...	...	5
„ Disinfected	...	...	...	7
Bedding, &c., Disinfected	...	...	...	5
Wells Cleaned Out	...	...	...	3
„ New Kerbs...	...	...	...	2
„ Repaired	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	...	3
Closets Repaired and Improved	...	...	...	9
Public Pumps Repaired	...	...	...	5
Certificates for Water Supply Granted	...	...	...	6
Drains Repaired and Improved	...	...	...	2
Pigs Removed	...	...	...	1
Pigsties Cleansed	...	...	...	3
New Frames to Catchpits	...	...	...	2
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses Inspected	...	...	...	12
Slaughter Houses Inspected	...	...	...	5
Factories and Workshops Inspected	...	...	...	3
Outworkers' Houses Inspected	...	...	...	28
School Premises Inspected	...	...	...	5
Schools Disinfected	...	...	...	1
Inspections Made	...	...	...	194

I have also been in frequent communication with your newly appointed Inspector of Nuisances, who has submitted the following summary of work carried out under his supervision since September 30th :—

Houses White-washed and Repaired	...	...	...	4
„ Disinfected	...	...	...	6
Water Certificates Granted	...	...	...	3
Closets—New	...	...	...	2
„ Repaired	...	...	...	2
„ Cleaned	...	...	...	2
Drains Cleaned	...	...	...	1
„ Repaired	...	...	...	3
Cesspools Filled In	...	...	...	1
Schools Inspected	...	...	...	1

And I am, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

HENRY HEMSTED,

Medical Officer of Health,

R.D., Whitechurch, Hants.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WHITCHURCH, HANTS,

January 15, 1908.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1907 and Previous Years.
WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1897	5658	174	30·7	22	126·4	95	16·7	12	No INFORMATION.		95	16·7
1898	5658	182	32·1	25	137·3	95	16·7	10			95	16·7
1899	5658	169	29·8	14	82·8	64	11·3	2			64	11·3
1900	5658	151	26·6	16	105·9	78	13·7	6			78	13·7
1901	5822	152	26·1	17	111·8	77	13·2	8			77	13·2
1902	5822	148	25·4	16	108·0	60	10·3	3			60	10·3
1903	5822	146	25·0	20	136·9	82	14·0	8			82	14·0
1904	5822	156	26·7	13	83·3	63	10·8	7			63	10·8
1905	5822	135	23·1	7	51·8	61	10·4	5			61	10·4
1906	5822	137	23·5	10	72·9	74	12·7	9			74	12·7
Averages for years 1897-1906.	5756·4	155·0	26·9	16·0	101·7	74·9	12·9	7·0			74·9	12·9
1907	5822	150	25·7	12	80·0	56	9·6	7			56	9·6

*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609.

Total population at all ages (at Census of 1901)—5822.

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1907 and previous years.
 WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT. 1.				WHITCHURCH DIVISION AND WORKHOUSE. 2.				OVERTON DIVISION. 3.				ST. MARY BOURNE DIVISION. 4.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1897 ...	5658	174	95	22	2958	86	52	8	1668	59	25	11	1032	29	18	3
1898 ...	5658	182	95	25	2958	71	49	6	1668	80	34	14	1032	31	12	5
1899 ...	5658	169	64	14	2958	85	29	5	1668	57	26	8	1032	27	9	1
1900 ...	5658	151	78	16	2958	72	42	7	1668	47	21	9	1032	32	15	0
1901 ...	5822	152	77	17	2974	69	43	9	1671	57	19	5	1177	26	15	3
1902 ...	5822	148	60	16	2974	69	30	9	1671	44	15	3	1177	35	15	4
1903 ...	5822	146	82	20	2974	72	45	12	1671	49	22	7	1177	25	15	1
1904 ...	5822	156	63	13	2974	65	35	7	1671	55	13	5	1177	36	15	1
1905 ...	5822	135	61	7	2974	74	33	4	1671	38	17	2	1177	23	11	1
1906 ...	5822	137	74	10	2974	68	39	4	1671	42	19	4	1177	27	16	2
Averages of Years 1897 to 1906 ...	5756.4	155.0	74.9	16.0	2967.6	73.1	39.7	7.1	1669.8	52.8	21.1	6.8	1119.0	29.1	14.1	2.1
1907 ...	5822	150	56	12	2974	82	28	6	1671	47	17	3	1177	21	11	3

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1907.**WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Whitchurch Division W. & H.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.	Whitchurch Division W. & H.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Diphtheria (Including Membranous Croup)	7	...	...	5	1	1	...	4	2	1	4	...	1
Erysipelas ...	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Enteric Fever...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	15	...	...	5	6	4	...	9	4	2	4	...	1

Isolation Hospital: Whitchurch (Hants) Rural District. Total Cases Removed to Hospital ... 5.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).			TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Whitchurch Division.	Overton Division.	St. Mary Bourne Division.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Epidemic Influenza ...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) }	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	1	...	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	6	...	...	...	...	4	2	3	1	2	1
Bronchitis ...	4	1	1	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...
Pneumonia ...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs }	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...
Heart diseases ...	9	...	...	...	...	3	6	5	3	1	2
Accidents ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Convulsions ...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Marasmus ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Debility from Birth ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
All other causes...	13	...	...	...	...	2	11	5	5	3	2
All causes ...	56	12	3	1	1	14	25	28	17	11	7

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1907.**Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.****WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—2 Months.	2—3 Months.	3—4 Months.	4—5 Months.	5—6 Months.	6—7 Months.	7—8 Months.	8—9 Months.	9—10 Months.	10—11 Months.	11—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES—																	
Certified ...	8	...	...	...	8	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	12
Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
<i>Wasting Diseases</i>																	
Premature Birth...	5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy } Debility } Marasmus }	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Other Causes :—</i>																	
Convulsions...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Debility from Birth ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	8	...	...	...	8	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	12

Births in the Year ... Legitimate, 145 ; Illegitimate, 5.

Deaths in the Year ... Legitimate 12 ; Illegitimate, 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages 56. Population (estimated to the middle of 1907) 5822.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1907 on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.				2.—DEFECTS FOUND.	
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	3			No Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	2				
Homeworkers' Premises ...	...	...	...	Section 22 not adopted, Sanitary Accommodation Sufficient.	
Total ...	...	...	...		
	33				

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Homework ... Lists Received 2, Outworkers 59.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year ... 2.

